

CIA Plot To Shadow 1-18-75 Hughes Aide Revealed

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A Canadian filmmaker has declared that two purported CIA agents asked him to spy on former Howard Hughes aide John Meier concerning Meier's connections with a brother of former President Nixon and the Hughes Tool Co., it was disclosed yesterday.

Robert Wyshak, Meier's attorney, said the allegations were contained in an affidavit given by Bruce McInnes. Wyshak said the affidavit would be filed next Monday in federal court in Nevada.

Meier is charged with income tax evasion in both Nevada and California during a 1969-70 period when he was buying mining claims for Hughes. He was not in federal court here for a hearing yesterday. Wyshak said that Meier presently was in Vancouver, B.C.

McInnes said he was approached by the two men and offered money to provide information on Meier's connections with Donald Nixon, the Hughes company and columnist Jack Anderson.

The filmmaker said he met Meier in the summer of 1972 preparing to make a documentary on billionaire recluse Hughes. He said he also had conferred with representatives of the company.

At about that time in August, 1973, McInnes said he was approached at the Castaways Hotel in Las Vegas by the men who represented themselves as employees of an oil company and offered him a job doing "research."

He identified the pair as Virgino Gonzales and a "Mr. Abbot."

"I later learned through a contact in New York and Miami that these said men . . . were agents of the Central Intelligence Agency," the affidavit said.

McInnes said Gonzales had a long association with the CIA dating back to the Bay of Pigs and had been conducting a surveillance of Meier going back to 1969.

"It was during these (Castaways) conversations that I learned the research would consist solely of keeping tabs on John Meier's activities in Nevada along with any information I could gather on John Meier regarding his connections with Donald Nixon, Hughes Tool Co. and Jack Anderson.

McInnes said he declined the offer.

A federal judge in Reno last Dec. 2 issued a bench warrant for Meier when he failed to appear for trial on the Nevada tax evasions counts. Wyshak said Meier was under a doctor's care in London at the time and was advised that if he traveled an ear affliction might cause deafness.

U.S. District Judge Irving Hill set another hearing for Meier on the California tax charge on Jan. 27. Wyshak said he did not know whether Meier would appear in the Los Angeles court later this month.

Meier's friendship with Donald Nixon led to his firing by Hughes in 1969 after it was disclosed that the CIA had wiretapped the former president's brother's telephone at Nixon's orders.

McInnes is a resident of Richmond, B.C.